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--8. (new) The absorbent article according to claim 5,
wherein the indicium on each belt portion is colored.--

REMARKS

The application has been amended so as to place it in condition for disposal at the time of the next Official Action.

The Official Action had objected to the drawings, as they allegedly failed to comply with 37 CFR \$1.84(p)(4), as reference numerals were used to designate allegedly different elements in the specification. By the present amendment, it will be seen that the specification has been amended so as to eliminate the use of different elements for the same reference character. Consequently, it is believed that no drawing correction is required, and that the objection to the drawings should be withdrawn.

The Official Action had objected to the Abstract of the Disclosure, as it contained legal phraseology. By the present amendment, it will be seen that the Abstract of the Disclosure has been amended in a manner which is believed to comply with 37 CFR \$1.72(b) and Section 608.01(b) of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP).

The Official Action had requested a new title which is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. Accordingly, a new title is presented herewith, which is believed to be clearly indicative of the invention recited in the claims.

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, for indefiniteness. The Primary Examiner's well-taken formal criticisms of these claims were borne in mind as points to be corrected when drafting the new claims. Specifically, new claims 5-8 were drafted in such a manner as to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded by applicant as his invention. When drafting the new claims, great care was taken to ensure that the terms recited therein possessed proper antecedent basis. Thus, new claims 5-8 are believed to set out and circumscribe a particular absorbent article with a reasonable degree of precision and particularity, when read in light of the teachings of the original specification. It is respectfully submitted that a person having ordinary skill in the art would be reasonably apprised of the metes and bounds of new claims 5-8. Accordingly, it is believed that the rejection of claims 1-4 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, has been overcome and should not be applied to new claims 5-8.

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by the publication to RAUFMAN et al. (US 2002/0062117).

Reconsideration of the above rejection is respectfully requested for the following reasons.

The RAUFMAN et al. publication discloses an absorbent article, wherein the article is an all-in-one product, and not a belted absorbent article within the sense of the present

invention. The primary difference between a belted diaper and an all-in-one product, except for the presence of belts, lies in the application of article on the wearer. Upon application of the belted diaper, the belt portions are **first** applied around the waist of the wearer, and **subsequently**, is the front portion attached against the outside portions of the belt to create a pant-like shape. Such an application is extremely convenient for an adult wearer, who consequently can apply the article without the help from another person.

In sharp contrast, the all-in-one product is usually applied on the wearer with the assistance of another person. Such an article is applied by attaching the side portions of the rear portion of the diaper on the front portion in an overlapping manner. Hence, the application is performed in one single step, and not in a two-step fashion as is the case for the belted diapers. Consequently, the problems arising when applying a belted diaper on a wearer are quite divergent and different from those arising when applying an all-in-one product.

The Official Action makes a very broad interpretation of the meaning of "belt", and states that the fastening tabs 37 in the RAUFMAN et al. reference are belts. Nevertheless, the product disclosed by RAUFMAN et al. is not intended to be applied like a belted diaper, which means that if the "belt" 37 as advanced by the Official Action was first to be applied around the waist of the wearer, then how would the front portion attach

to such "belt"?

The present invention deals with the problem of knowing from the wearer's view, how the product is to be positioned. Incontinence products for adults tend to be quite large as compared to baby and infant diapers, since the differences in body shapes of adults are much bigger than those of babies and infants. In addition, the elderly people, who often use this kind of product typically have weak eyesight and/or difficulties in moving and looking in a mirror to see how the product is positioned on them.

In order to advance prosecution of this application, it will be seen that newly-presented independent claim 5 calls for a pair of belt portions comprising a first belt portion attached to one side of the rear portion, and a second belt portion attached to an opposite side of the rear portion; the belt portions, in use, being fastened together around a waist of a wearer. In addition, the first belt portion carries first fastening means, which in use, are attached against the second belt portion, and a front portion exhibits second fastening means, which in use, are attached to the belt portions such that the article will assume a pant shape, where the belt portions form a part of waist portions of the pant.

It is respectfully submitted that the above claimed characteristics are neither taught, nor suggested by the RAUFMAN et al. reference.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, therefore, it is believed that this application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance on the basis of new claims 5-8 are accordingly solicited.

In the event that there are any questions relating to this amendment or to the application in general, it would be appreciated if the Examiner would telephone the undersigned attorney concerning such questions so that the prosecution of this application may be expedited.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the title, abstract and specification. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE TITLE:

The title throughout, declaration excepted, has been amended as follows:

--ABSORBENT ARTICLE WITH BELT PORTIONS HAVING INDICIA--.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The Abstract of the Disclosure has been amended as follows:

Absorbent article such as a diaper and an incontinence guard comprising a pair of belt portions [(9,10)] attached to the rear portion [(6)] of the article and which are intended to be fastened together around the waist of the wearer, wherein [the] one belt portion [(9,10)] carries first fastening [means (11)] elements intended to be attached against the opposite belt portion [(9,10)] and where [said] the front portion [(5)] exhibits second fastening [means (8)] elements intended to be attached to the belt portions [(9,10)], in such a way that the article will assume a pantlike shape, where the belt portions [(9,10)] form a part of the waist portions of the pant. Each belt [portions (9,10) are] portion is provided with at least one indicium [(12)], being placed on [a] an appropriate distance from the attachment [(13)] of each belt portion [(9,10)] to the rear portion [(6)] of the article, whereby each indicium [(12)] on one belt portion [(9)] has its corresponding indicium [on the] on the

opposite belt portion [(10)].

[(Figure of publication: Fig. 1)]

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 2, replace the paragraph beginning on line 9 as follows:

--One problem for the user or the nursing personnel is to know whether the absorbing diaper part of the article is [centred] centered on the back of the user. When the belt is applied, i.e., when the belt portions [is] are connected to each other on the belly of the wearer, it is difficult to know in which way the diaper part of the article is fit on the user, since one [can not] cannot visually see how the article fits on the back. When the front portion is attached against the belt portions, it can easily happen that the article, if it has ended up wrong around the wearer, not provide the guard it is intended to provide and maybe cause discomfort to the wearer.--.

Page 3, the paragraph beginning on line 12 has been amended as follows:

--The topsheet 3 and the backsheet [material] 2 have a somewhat greater extension in the plane than the absorbent body 4 and extend outside the edges thereof. The [layers] topsheet 2 and backsheets 3 are connected to each other within the projecting portions thereof, e.g., by gluing or welding by heat or ultrasonic.--;

Page 3, the paragraph beginning on line 26 and bridging pages 3 and 4 has been amended as follows:

--The diaper/incontinence guard is intended to enclose the lower part of the wearer's trunk like a pair of absorbent pants. It comprises a front portion 5, intended during use to be worn on the front part of the user's body, a rear portion 6, intended during use to be worn on the rear part of the user's body, and a crotch portion 7 located between the front and rear portions and which is intended to be worn in the crotch part of the user between the legs. The front portion 5 exhibits [a pair of tape tabs 8 or another kind of] second fastening means 8 such as tape tabs, or hook and loop fasteners.--.

Page 4, the paragraph beginning on line 6 has been amended as follows:

--A pair of belt portions 9, 10 are with one end attached, e.g., glued or ultrasonically welded, to the rear portion 6 of the diaper. The belt portions 9, 10 are with their opposite ends intended to be fastened together by means of first fastening means 11, e.g. a hook-and-loop type fastener or tape tabs, intended to be attached against the outsides of the opposite belt portion. The second fastening means 8 of the front portion 5, such as for instance hook and loop fasteners or tape tabs, is intended to be attached against the [outsides] outside of the belt portions 9, 10 in order to fasten together the diaper/incontinence guard to the desired pantlike shape.--;

Page 4, the paragraph beginning on line 14 has been amended as follows:

--The width of the belt portions 9, 10 should be between 3-20 cm, preferably between 7-15 cm. The belt portions 9, 10 comprise according to an embodiment a laminate, wherein a carrier material forms the outside of the belt and a soft nonwoven forms the inside of the belt, intended to be in direct contact with the skin of the user. A suitable nonwoven material can be a spunbond material of e.g., polypropylene or polyethylene fibres. Conjugate fibres may also be used. Another suitable nonwoven material can be a carded thermobonded material of e.g., polypropylene, polyester or conjugate fibres. A plastic film or another suitable material e.g., nonwoven, may be used as carrier material. The carrier material should be adapted to function as a reception surface for both the [attachment] fastening means 8 and 11, wherein in the case where these are tape tabs, a plastic film is suitable. In the case wherein other [kinds] kind of [fastenings] fastening means is used of tape tabs, e.g., a hook and loop type fastener, another kind of carrier material is used, in particular a nonwoven material, which can act as a reception surface for the fastening means in question. Separate reception surfaces for fastening means could also be arranged on the [outsides] outside of the belt.--.

Page 5, the paragraph beginning on line 1 has been amended as follows:

--The belt portions 9, 10 are each provided with at least one indicium 12. The indicia 12 on the opposite belt portions are symmetrically placed in the longitudinal direction of the belt portions 9, 10, on a certain distance from the attachment 13 of each belt portion 9, 10 to the rear portion 6 of the diaper/incontinence guard. Thus, each indicium 12 on one belt portion 9 has its corresponding indicium on the opposite belt portion 10, placed on essentially the same distance from the attachment 13 of each belt portion 9, 10 to the rear portion 6 of the article. Upon application of the article belt portions 9, 10 are first attached around the waist of the wearer and said indicia 12 on the different belt portions [12] are fitted against each other and are levelled against the navel on the user. Thereby is ensured that the [centre] center line 14 of the article is located at the [centre] center of the back of the user, since the position of the navel gives the [centre] center position on the front side of the user. Thus, the share of the belt portion 9 extending in one direction from the attachment 13 of the belt portion 9 to the rear portion 6 around the patient is equally large as the share of the belt portion 10 extending in the other direction around the patient.--

Page 5, the paragraph beginning on line 15 has been amended as follows:

--For reasons of manufacturing, the indicia 12 are preferably located on the inside portion of the belt portion, but the indicia may be located on both sides or on the [outsides] outside of the belt portions. Preferably, there are two or more indicia 12 on each belt portion 9, 10, so that an adaptation of the circumference of the belt to the size of the user can be performed. Said indicia 12 can in pairs consist of stripes, lines, dots, symbols, letters, ornamental designs, images, etc. having the same or different [colour] color. Said indicia 12 can consist of the same pattern but in pairs have different [colours] colors.--.